Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~method a recited in claim 1, wherein said method further comprises~~ computing environment as recited in claim 23, wherein said file-system-independent component is further operable to:

   ~~denying~~ deny said at least one operation when said determining determines that said at least one operation should not be allowed.

3-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A computing environment as recited in claim 23 ~~method a recited in claim 1~~, wherein said at least one mandatory lock category can be a Byte-Range lock or a Shared Resource lock.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~method a~~ computing environment as recited in claim 7, wherein the type of said Byte-Range lock can be exclusive or shared.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~method a~~ computing environment as recited in claim 7,
   wherein said Shared Resource lock can have a deny mode associated with it; and
   wherein said deny mode can be defined with respect to reading or writing of said file.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~method a~~ computing environment as recited in claim 23 [[1]], wherein said at least one operation can be a read, write, delete, rename, memory map or change size operation.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~computing~~ environment as recited in claim 23, wherein said file-system-independent component is operable to ~~method of processing requests to perform operations on a file which is capable of being stored in a UNIX file system, said method comprising~~:

(a) ~~receiving~~ receive a request to perform an operation on a ~~UNIX~~ file which has a mandatory Byte-Range lock associated with it;

(b) ~~determining~~ determine whether said requested operation may affect a byte range of the ~~UNIX~~ file; said byte range representing a portion of said file which is associated with the mandatory Byte-Range lock; and

(c) ~~determining~~ determine whether said operation is compatible with said Byte-Range lock when said determining (b) determines that said requested operation may affect said byte range.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~method~~ computing environment as recited in claim 11, wherein said file-system-independent component is further operable to ~~method further comprises~~:

~~determining~~ determine whether said request was made by the owner of said Byte-Range lock when said determining (c) determines that said operation is not compatible with said Byte-Range.

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~method~~ computing environment as recited in claim 11, wherein said mandatory Byte-Range lock can be an exclusive or shared lock.

14-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computing environment as recited in claim 23, wherein said file-system-independent operating system is further operable to ~~method of processing a request to change the size of a file which is capable of being stored in a UNIX file system; said method comprising~~:

~~determining~~ determine whether a mandatory Byte-Range lock or a mandatory Shared Resource lock is associated with said file;

~~determining~~ determine whether said Shared Resource lock includes a deny write operation when ~~said determining determines~~ it is determined that a mandatory Shared Resource lock is associated with said file; and

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identifying identify a region of said file which may would be affected by said request to change changing the size of said file when said determining determines it is determined that a mandatory Byte-Range lock has been associated with the file.

20. (Currently Amended) A method computing environment as recited in claim 19, wherein said method file-system-independent component is further operable to comprises:

determining determine whether said identified region intersects a locked region of said file; and

allowing allow said request to change said file size when said determining determines it is determined that said identified region does not intersect with said locked region of said file.

21. (Currently Amended) A method computing environment as recited in claim 19, wherein said method file-system-independent component is further operable to comprises:

determining determine whether said request was made by the owner of said mandatory Byte-Range lock or mandatory Shared Resource lock.

22. (Currently Amended) A method computing environment as recited in claim 19, wherein said request to change said file size is allowed when said determining whether said Shared Resource lock does not include a deny write operation.

23. (Currently Amended) A UNIX computing environment, comprising:

a UNIX file system capable of storing one or more files therein, wherein said file system does not provide mandatory locks for files stored in said first file system;

an operating system that can access files stored in said file system;

a file-system-independent component of said operating system, wherein said - system-independent component effectively implements mandatory locks for said file system and is operable to:

receive a request to perform at least one operation on a file stored in said file system;

determine whether at least one mandatory lock is associated with said file;

determine a mandatory lock category or type for said at least one mandatory lock when said determining determines that at least one mandatory lock is associated with said file;

determine whether said least one mandatory lock category or type is compatible with said at least one operation;

determine at least partly based on compatibility of said lock category or type with said at least one operation whether said at least one operation should be allowed; and

allow said at least one operation when said determining determines that said at least one operation should be allowed; and

wherein said at least one operation can be changing the size of a file in said file-system.

~~wherein said UNIX computing environment is capable of enforcing mandatory locks for said one or more files in said UNIX file system; and~~

~~wherein said mandatory locks comprise of at least two mandatory lock categories.~~

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A ~~UNIX~~ computing environment as recited in claim 23 ~~24~~, wherein said at least two categories comprise Byte-Range locks and Shared Resource locks.

26. (Currently Amended) A ~~UNIX~~ computing environment as recited in claim 23, wherein said mandatory locks can be enforced with respect to read, write, delete, rename, memory map, or change size operations.

27-29. (Canceled)

30. (New) A computer readable medium that stores computer program code for said file-system-independent component recited in claim 23.